

# State Training Committee

## State Youth Court 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

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Dear Youth Court Leader,

The State Training Committee is excited to announce that it's that time of the year again! Time to start planning to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual State Youth Court Annual Conference. The conference will again be in a 4-day format and will be held in St. George June 22-25, 2005. We think you will find this year's conference to be excellent and will include material gathered from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Youth Court Professional Development conference recently held in New York City. There will be all new material and break out sessions. You definitely do not want to miss this exciting event.

Please read through the enclosed materials and distribute copies to your youth court adult and youth volunteers. Please also provide this information to the key supporters of your program in your community. There is a separate registration form for any dignitaries who will be attending the Banquet Friday night only. You will need to submit the registration form along with payment and make hotel arrangements for them if they will be spending the night.

Each year we receive a few comments that the conference did not teach the youth how to run a peer court. Because there are so many different models and each youth court is designed to work within its own unique community, it is not possible to do specific "How To" type training. This year the focus of the conference will be on *Youth Courts –Making a Difference in your Community*". Sessions will be provided that focus on issues our youth face today and provide ideas and resources that empower the youth to make positive changes within their communities. There will be a core session geared to provide a general overview of youth court models so volunteers can see that even though we all may do things differently, the outcomes are the same. There will also be sessions to build individual leadership skills inside and outside of the courtroom. These sessions will teach basic concepts such as communication skills, creative disposition ideas, restorative justice and conflict resolution. The remaining sessions will address

We are excited to host this year's conference in our St. George and been able to schedule Attorney General Mark Shurtleff to be our Keynote Speaker at the banquet Friday evening. We will also feature the very popular parking lot dance with the same great DJ we had 2 years ago.

If you know of any communities that are either starting or thinking of starting a new youth court, please share this information with them. Also forward a contact name, phone number, address, and e-mail address to Lori Silcox 8068 South Roosevelt Street, Midvale UT 84047; [lsilcox@bigplanet.com](mailto:lsilcox@bigplanet.com).

We will begin planning next year's conference in August and welcome anyone who would like to be a part of the Training Committee which also plans the semi-annual advisor conferences and explores the training needs of Utah's youth courts. The Training Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:00 am until 11:30 am. Sign up applications will be available at the conference registration table.

We look forward to seeing you all in St. George for a memorable conference.

Sincerely,

2005 State Youth Court Training Committee